

The City of Long Beach



Comprehensive Plan Frequently Asked Questions

What is a comprehensive plan?

A comprehensive plan is a document that guides and reflects the priorities of a community over the long term. It is a community based vision that sets a clear path forward.

Why create a comprehensive plan?

New York State law requires a comprehensive plan for municipalities that are looking to update their zoning code. The City's current code is antiquated as it has not been updated in over 30 years. The plan will therefore guide future zoning and other land use law changes, protecting the quality of life of our residents.

What happens if you do not have a plan?

If a plan is not put in place, the City runs the risk of having proposals for overdevelopment without a firm mechanism in place to prevent them or for comparison. Going forward, new development would have to fit in accordance with the comprehensive plan and updated zoning laws. It also helps to utilize resources more efficiently, sets priorities, and assists in obtaining outside funding to leverage taxpayer dollars.

What is the comprehensive plan's vision?

Based on feedback from the community following Sandy, the plan looks to help develop a vibrant and sustainable community with a resilient economy and environment that protects and enhances safety, health, diversity, arts/culture, transportation, infrastructure, and quality of life for current and future residents and guests of Long Beach.

What are the key elements of the City of Long Beach's plan?

Along with the traditional aspects of a comprehensive plan, such as housing, transportation, and recreation, this plan includes non-traditional aspects such as sustainability, resiliency, social health and well-being, community art, and culture. This is a plan that also protects the character of our community from overdevelopment while strengthening our economy, supporting our tax base, and creating jobs.

Through our extensive community engagement process, we have produced a community-developed vision that incorporates the following key elements:

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- Environmental Resilience (e.g., stormwater management, water quality, storm surge and protection strategies, critical infrastructure protection and upgrades, energy-efficiency)
- A Productive and Sustainable Economy (e.g., land use, zoning, housing, neighborhood preservation, streetscape/gateway improvements, economic/market analyses, enhanced public spaces, expanded recreational/cultural opportunities)
- Transportation and Mobility (e.g., parking management strategies, enhancing transit and multi-modal connections, Complete Streets Policy implementation)

How was this plan created?

In the past two years, the City has conducted extensive research, hosted numerous meetings with community organizations, and solicited feedback from individual residents. Prior to December 2016, there have been 10 separate open house meetings, 2 focus groups, and 5 community advisory committee meetings, taking place at various locations throughout Long Beach. The feedback from these engagement sessions provided the framework for this plan.

Where can I get a copy of the plan?

Copies are available in the City Clerk's office (3rd floor of City Hall), the LB Public Library, the Martin Luther King Center, and on LongBeachListens.com.

Will this comprehensive plan include residential eminent domain purchases?

There are no plans to use eminent domain to obtain residential properties, and it is strongly discouraged by this plan.

Is inclusionary zoning/affordable housing part of the comprehensive plan?

Inclusionary zoning will be a tool utilized when updating the City's zoning code to require affordable housing, among other measures.

When will we begin to see the plan implemented?

The Plan should be completed in early 2017. Although many of the zoning process will follow the adoption of the plan, it is expected to take 12-15 months to be finalized and approved.

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